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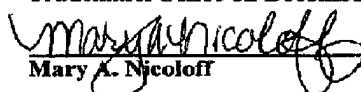
DEC 23 2003

In re Application of:
Ronald Quentin Bennett, et al
For: PROCESS FOR SYNTHESIZING
DIISOPROPYLBENZENE
Serial No.: 10/688,724
Filed: October 17, 2003

) Docket No. DN2002178
) Art Unit:
) Examiner:

OFFICIAL

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Mary A. Nicoloff

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified patent application without prejudice as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims in the subject patent application as follows:

1. (original): A process for producing para-diisopropylbenzene from cumene and propylene, said process comprising the steps of (1) introducing a feed stream into an alkylation zone wherein said feed stream is comprised of cumene and propylene, and wherein said alkylation zone contains an alkylation catalyst; (2) allowing the cumene and propylene in the feed stream to react together to produce a first mixture of para-diisopropylbenzene and meta-diisopropylbenzene; (3) fractionally distilling the mixture of para-diisopropylbenzene and meta-diisopropylbenzene in a fractional distillation step to separate the meta-diisopropylbenzene from the para-diisopropylbenzene; (4) isomerizing the meta-diisopropylbenzene in the presence of a transalkylation catalyst to produce a second mixture of para-diisopropylbenzene and meta-diisopropylbenzene; (5) recycling the second mixture of para-diisopropylbenzene and meta-diisopropylbenzene recovered from the transalkylation step to the fractional distillation step; and (6) recovering the para-diisopropylbenzene that was separated from the meta-diisopropylbenzene by the fractional distillation step.